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SECURITY INFORMATION

5 June 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Air Force Contract for Photo Intelligence

1. The following points should be kept in mind as to why the Air Force contract for the development of improved regional photo interpretation keys for Soviet Orbit areas and neighboring countries should be undertaken by the Central Intelligence Agency:

a. The specialized knowledge of Soviet Orbit characteristics necessary for the development of the project is a primary capability of OIR not found elsewhere in the government.

(1) OIR has over 160 functional economic specialty components concentrated on the Orbit regions.

(2) In addition, it has large map, geological, and geographic specialty resources concentrating on the Orbit and the Near East.

(3) All other personnel are Soviet Orbit area specialists.

b. The above resources are organized on a close all source working basis necessary for effective development of the project. Such an all source basis requires certain specialization in intelligence techniques not easily found anywhere else.

c. CIA photo intelligence staffing is under way and is necessary for economic research as well as support for covert operations. Development of photo interpretation keys is a part of such work.

d. It is advisable to use OIR resources in order to minimize duplication.

e. The Reconnaissance Branch originally hoped that OIR might undertake the job because of the magnitude of area background specialization required which would not be available elsewhere without long-term painful organizational development.

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Research and Report

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